



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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**SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY FISHERY PROGRAM APPROVED FOR SECOND YEAR**

Allocation of the entire \$3 million available for the second year of the expanded fishery research and market development program launched last year by the Fish and Wildlife Service under the terms of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

The legislation, designed to promote increased production and marketing of domestic fishery products, provides that an amount equal to 30 percent of duties collected under the customs laws on fishery products shall be transferred annually for three years from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. Expenditures for any one year may not exceed \$3,000,000.

In fiscal year 1956, \$2,729,700 will be expended for the continuance of projects initiated last year and which require more than one year to complete. These projects have all been endorsed by the American Fisheries Advisory Committee.

A balance of \$270,300 is available for the initiation of certain new projects which were recommended by the Advisory Committee during its second meeting held in Boston in late August.

In proposing activities to be initiated in fiscal year 1956, the Committee emphasized the importance of a substantial number of projects which amounted to somewhat more than \$1,000,000. After a careful review, the Service selected the following projects, which were strongly recommended by the Committee:

Tuna Bait Substitute Studies--\$35,000. The tuna clipper fleet is required to spend a substantial portion of its time in search of bait. The development of an artificial bait should cut the costs of operation of the fleet and make it possible to operate more economically.

Alaska Salmon Research--\$108,000. This amount will be divided among four separate research projects on Alaska salmon problems, as follows:

1. The effects of logging resulting from the newly developed wood pulp industry on the productivity of pink salmon streams, especially in Southeastern Alaska, \$35,000.
2. A study of the distribution, abundance, movements, food and methods of control of sea lions and hair seals said to be predators on halibut, cod, and herring, as well as salmon, \$20,000.

3. A study of the migratory and schooling habits of the valuable red salmon runs in Bristol Bay through a system of tagging, \$35,000.

4. Tests of automatic equipment for enumerating salmon escapement as a possible means of replacing about 25 weirs which are costly to operate and require personal attention, \$18,300.

Atlantic Striped Bass Research--\$32,000. This will provide for the Service's part of a coastwide Federal-State study with headquarters at Beaufort, North Carolina. Striped bass provides an important fishery from Massachusetts to Florida.

South Atlantic Shrimp Exploration--\$60,000. This study will provide for exploratory fishing for new shrimp areas in greater depths on the South Atlantic coast. An expansion of present shrimp grounds from the inshore or shallow water areas would provide more profitable operating opportunities for the shrimp fleet.

Improvement in Quality of Skipjack Tuna--\$10,000. These small size tuna are difficult to preserve aboard the fishing vessel and large losses from spoilage are sustained. The California Fish and Game Commission is studying the problem under a contract awarded by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the first year of the program. Several possible solutions to the problem appear promising. A second year's contract will insure completion of this study.

Pre-standards for Fresh Fish--\$25,000. It is generally recognized that current practices of handling fresh fish and shellfish, beginning at the point of capture, need improving. Better practices will benefit users of fresh fish and also those who process them further into frozen, canned, or smoked fish.

As in the first year, a number of the above projects will be carried out under contract with college, State, and private research organizations.

Under the total \$3,000,000 program, about \$1,400,000 has been allocated to various biological studies and a like amount will be expended this fiscal year for technological research and educational and marketing activities.

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